

# AMERICA TO SCRAP WARSHIPS COSTING HALF A BILLION TO FILL TREATY TERMS

Junk Prices Mean Return of Half of One Per Cent. on Outlay.

TOTAL TO BE \$2,750,000

Eighteen Months Allowed for Scrapping After Ratification.

VESSELS 60 P. C. STEEL

Wrecking Starts at Top Until Hull Rises in Water and Can Be Reached.

By DONALD M'GREGOR.

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.  
New York Herald Bureau.  
Washington, D. C., April 8.

THE American warships to be scrapped in compliance with the terms of the recently ratified naval limitation treaty will bring the United States less than half of one cent on the dollar. The original outlay for these vessels was in excess of \$500,000,000, while the most they are expected to bring when put up for sale as junk is \$2,500,000. The probability is that the net return will be considerably less.

The very best price warships have been bringing at junk sales, this being based on figures from the disposition of vessels at the Philadelphia Navy Yard recently, is \$5 a ton. There are approximately 550,000 tons of ships to be sold, and, if this price were to be maintained, the revenues would amount to \$2,750,000, out of which, of course, is to be paid certain costs of sale.

Admiral Taylor's Board Will Recommend Process

Rear Admiral David W. Taylor, Chief Constructor of the Navy, is at the head of a special board of admirals studying the best means of disposing of the warships. The board is about ready to make its report, recommending a plan for the disposition of the vessels for the best interests of the Government and in compliance with the terms of the treaty. Under the program which is likely to be recommended the vessels are to be stripped of portable furnishings, navigation instruments, guns and similar equipment and sold to the highest bidder. They are not all to be put up at one time—some, as might appear on the surface, because of the danger of injuring the junk market, but rather to keep from glutting the ship wrecking market which, in America, is small.

Since the negotiation of the naval treaty, at the recent Washington Conference for the Limitation of Armaments, many suggestions have been made as to the possible means of disposing of the vessels. The idea that the ships might be sunk in much the same way as were the German warships turned over to the United States under the terms of the armistice was discarded, of course, as needless waste. The sum of \$2,500,000, or even \$1,500,000, is much better than nothing. The suggestion, also, that the vessels be converted into merchant ships has been killed, as it is not permitted under the terms of the treaty.

Much more time than commonly is supposed is allowed for the disposition of the vessels. The treaty provides that the warships are to be put out of service as such within six months after the exchange of ratifications between the Powers, and that after that a year is allowed for the final breaking up, or, altogether a period of eight months from the time when the exchange of ratifications takes place. The exchange will take place nobody knows as yet. The recent ratification of the naval treaty by the United States Senate is only a part of the procedure. The other signatory Powers—Great Britain, Japan, France and Italy—must notify the Washington Government of their ratification, and it must be proclaimed before the period of disposing of the warships is to start.

In any way this is regarded as fortunate by those charged with the disposition of the warships, because, just at this time, the junk market is at a very low ebb. If the vessels were to be put up for sale to-day they probably would bring much less than \$5 a ton. The expectation is, of course, that the market will recover by the time the warships are to be destroyed. In all, the United States is to dispose of twenty-seven warships, sixteen of which are completed and eleven partly built. The completed vessels have a gross tonnage of 250,000 tons, while the ships that are in building were to have a gross tonnage of 330,000 tons, but actually, at the present period of completion, around 300,000 tons. Those in building had progressed to a stage where not much additional weight was to be supplied, the finishing work being the installation of lighter furnishings.

"The navy will, of course, remove all fittings that can be used on other vessels," Rear Admiral Taylor explained to-day. "Furniture, for instance, will be taken off. Furniture does not last long at sea, and the navy is buying or building furniture all the time. All the navigation instruments will be removed, as will be other instruments of use only aboard battleships. As for stripping the ships much beyond this point, except for the guns, I cannot see how this is advisable."

Country Isn't Going Into the Junk Business

"The suggestion that the United States go into the junk business we do not regard as feasible. It would not, in any way, solve the problem at the navy yards for keeping the workers employed, for the simple reason that the wrecking of a ship is work for a common laborer, while the employees of the navy yards are highly

## Arranges Junking of Ships



REAR ADMIRAL DAVID W. TAYLOR.

skilled. You might as well say it would be a good thing to employ skilled labor in digging ditches. "The junk that will come off the vessels will be copper, brass, certain machinery, such as small engines and motors; plumbing, which is of high grade, and a small amount of wood. But more than 60 per cent. of every battleship is steel.

"This steel is to be found in the hull armor, the protective deck and elsewhere. To the junkman it will be known as 'heavy melting scrap,' which is composed of small pieces which can be shoveled much

more closely and establishes its own powers the more firmly by the same act. On the other hand, he who violates or weakens an individual's rights, reducing his personal status so to speak, injures the social system at the same time.

We must conclude then that the view of the plain man, who naturally insists on the privacy of individuality, is abstract. He entertains it naturally almost inevitably. He has had to hold his own all his life; and he knows his desires, aims and volition as his own and his actions as their result. He traces the springs of his actions no further. He attributes the same kind of separate individuality to others; and he has no option except to regard society as a result of their coming out of their isolation and entering into relations which are more or less stable. He does not realize that he is, by such a theory, constructing a system by means of centrifugal forces.

By SIR HENRY JONES, Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of Glasgow.

MOST men exercise moderation and while maintaining that they can "do as they like with their own," they do on the whole pay some regard to the views of their neighbors. The individualist struggle is fought in business offices and cabinet councils and a wider outlook and clearer comprehension leads to a certain moderation. The selfishness becomes enlightened. Compromise may be made the rule of the better life—a midway course between "Altruism and Egoism" as Herbert Spencer taught, a prudent mixture of "Individualism and Socialism," an alternation and balance of the rights of self and the rights of others, a mean between the extremes of selfishness and generosity.

But business is business. The practically true theory, to be carried out, demands that a man should put off ideal notions, and instead of the flowing robes of charity put on the business armor of hard and cold steel. It is not as a practical man of business that he can carry out the doctrines which he enjoyed in the church, and which, in his own home, with his father and mother and brothers and sisters and wife and children, he does carry out, finding therein his greatest happiness.

It is the practical life of men and women in this workaday world possible on any other theory? Are rights not sacred? Are they not exclusive? Is property not intrinsically private? Are duties not intensely personal?

Utopian Ideals Do Not Always Hold in Business

I would answer these questions by admitting freely that in their proper context they are true. But all these rights that we attribute to persons exist only on a certain condition. And that condition appears to be the exact opposite of their private and individual character. They must be recognized as not less social than they are individual, private personal because in the first place they are social. Rights are social institutions. Society creates and maintains them.

Rights and obligations are the conceptions that, in the degree to which they are carried into practice, found and maintained a free society. They are bonds which liberate. And we create and maintain them for one another; never in virtue merely of our own enactments.

Claims can collide, rights cannot; they strengthen each other. A society which extends to its citizens genuine rights, thereby widening the compass of their private effective wills and enlarging the significance of their personalities, knits them together the

same as coal, and which constitutes most of the scrap in the country. "The ship wrecking industry in the United States is very small. We have never had many ships to scrap. However, the Navy Department is trying to interest some of the shipbuilding companies in the business so that there may be the greatest possible number of bidders when the ships are put up for sale.

"A comparatively small plant is required. The usual procedure is to start the wrecking at the top, while the ship is standing in the water. As the parts are taken off the ship becomes heavier and rises in the water. When it becomes possible the vessel is hauled up on the beach, or close to it, and the work proceeds between tides."

social sciences teach men to be more useful citizens

Three lectures were delivered inaugurating the Sharp Lectureship in Civics and Philanthropy at the Rice Institute in Houston, Texas, by Sir Henry Jones, member of the British Educational Mission. Owing to the recent death of this prophet of the absolute excerpts here given from the third and last of this series derives additional interest as being among his latest utterances.

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## Miaco, Oldest Clown of Them All, 68 Years Before the Public, Says Being Absurd Is Serious Business

At Age of 77 Beloved Fun-maker Has Paralysis, and May Be Through.

SAYS HE'LL COME BACK

Idol of American Children Ran Away From Home When 9 and Joined Circus.

America's most famous clown, the man who has made millions laugh and the idol of children, young and old, is now in need of some of the happiness he has been giving away so generously in the last sixty-eight years. The old timer probably will never again appear in the tanbark ring, for recently he suffered a stroke of paralysis and is forced to remain away from the crowds who knew him as the laughter they waited for and shared.

By ALFRED MIACO.

BEING absurd is serious business. I know, for I have played the part since I was a little boy. All the time we are out there in the ring cutting up pranks and doing foolish stunts the clown's brain is working fast, for he must draw a laugh and keep the crowd in good humor. Sick or well, it is the same thing. The clown must produce the laughs and he usually does. But there are de-greases in laughs and the great reward comes when we hear the hearty roar of applause of appreciation.

I was 9 years old when I ran away from home at Cortland, N. Y., and joined Yankee Robinson's Circus and Theater and became an apprentice. I learned to be a contortionist and graduated into pantomime. Soon I was playing Humpty Dumpty in my own show, but before that I appeared as a gymnast. My ambition was to be a good clown, and in later years some kind critics called me the greatest Shakespearean clown in America. That, of course, was after Tony Denier's day, for he was the king of them, all, and I was his pupil.

I am now 77 years old. I had a birthday March 31, and I wanted to be at the circus. It was the first birthday I had missed with the show in more than thirty years. But I couldn't make it. Perhaps I shall be with them again in a little while. I am not through yet, not by a long way.

Miaco Originated The Gymnastic Clown

When I was with the Yankee Robinson show—my first job—I used to watch the clowns very closely and in my spare time I mimicked them. After graduating as a contortionist and while learning to be a gymnast I applied that knowledge to clown work and originated what was known as the gymnastic clown. It was a success, but I was aiming for higher ideals.

It was while I was playing with Yankee Robinson's show that I first met the late Al Ringling. I remember the occasion well. I was in a vaudeville act and was supposed to shoot the villain. The pistol wouldn't go off, so I grabbed a knife lying on a table nearby and properly "killed" him as he was falling from the bullet which I couldn't fire. It was a thrilling scene, but the laughter and applause was unmistakable. After the show Al Ringling congratulated me, and he laughed when he spoke.

"You are made for a clown," he said. From that day on, I was a clown. I was a clown for a time I had to work double; yes, and in some shows I did everything from a contortionist to a

genius collection of human beings that this country had ever seen—pill-grims by sea and land, honest men and knaves, the pious and the blasphemous, the ignorant and the learned, the brutish and the refined; doctors, lawyers, preachers, horse jockeys, bakers and bankers—all in search of gold.

The factors that encouraged crime among the indolent and the vicious were the plentifulness of gold, the lonely and exposed condition of the roads and trails, the quantity of treasure constantly transported over them and the utter inadequacy of the courts and the police. San Francisco by 1849 had become, literally, a den of thieves that worked hand and hand with the sheriff's officers and the police, and who, not infrequently, wore a constable's badge.

These gangs, robbing, burning, murdering, insulting women, worked openly by day as well as by night, cowering decent folk by their truculency, their display of weapons and their threats. First to attract wide notice was the criminal organization called "The Hounds," whose headquarters was a "tomb" called "Tammany Hall."

Soon afterward another thieves' organization, "The Regulators," came into being, with similar purposes and motives. By July, 1849, San Francisco was aroused, for there had been in the California communities, according to loose estimate, no less than 4,200 murders. No one attempted to estimate the number of robberies, thefts and hold-ups. They were past counting.

An uprising of citizens in that year under Capt. Spofford, Hall McAllister, Isaac Bluxome and J. J. Lippitt did something to discourage banditry, but

## Has Made Millions Laugh



ALFRED MIACO.

singer. But they were good old days. My first act as a clown was to be judged with the feet of the then famous Ringley family. Since then I have played with Thayer & Noyes's Circus, Charlie Ames's show, Cameron's Oriental, John Robinson's, Nixon's New York Circus, Haight & Chambers's New Orleans Circus and Menagerie, H. M. Smith's Crescent City Circus and some others before joining Barnum's, and now I am with the big show, and have been for thirty odd years.

Married His Columbine Fifty-five Years Ago

I shall never forget the days in the New Orleans Circus. We traveled in boats on the Mississippi River, and it was there I met Laura, my wife and now my nurse. We were married fifty-five years ago. She was the best trapeze performer in the business, and was still playing with Barnum's when she was 50 years old. She was my Columbine at one time—the prettiest and most graceful little girl one could imagine. My wife's father owned the Crescent City Circus, and Horace Smith was the first man to put on the "three carrying act." He was a great rider and was the first rider to carry a man on his head.

I remember quite well seeing Juliana Booth carry a lantern around the lighted streets of New Orleans. All the Booths were eccentric. I remember my brother Steve and I met Wilkes Booth in a restaurant a few nights before he shot Lincoln. "Hello, Wilkes," I said to him. "What are you doing now?" He looked at me with a wild light in his eye. "I'm leaving the stage," he said, "and when I do all the world will know it." We thought it was some more strange Booth talk, but all the world did know it.

As I sit here idle I cannot help recalling the old scenes, and I cannot help saying that I liked the old days the best. Then I was a Shakespearean clown. I could recite anything that Shakespeare ever wrote, but as the shows got larger, the spoken lines be-

came less used, and now a clown rarely has to speak. In the old days the clown was the star headliner of the circus. He owed his supremacy entirely to his fund of humor. The children always worshiped funniness and always will. Now the old days are only memories. The circus has grown too big for the old intimacies and the old jokes made of local celebrities. Now there are three huge rings instead of one, several clowns where one did the work and hundreds of features where in former days there were only a few. My happiest days were when I used Shakespeare's quips and knew how to make the crowds laugh. Folks now don't care about such things. Slapstick comedy and burlesque have taken the subtlety away.

Made People Laugh and Forget Evils of Chicago Fire

In the days of the one ring circus a clown had to make good or he didn't last. In the days of George H. Adams, Tony Denier, George L. Fox and James Moffitt we had to know our art. There were hard gymnastics to do and always the difficult art of pantomime. We've lost that in this country in recent years. But it is a fine art, well worth reviving. We went to Europe to learn there under old masters. We cared for the classics and good literature. Clowns in the old days were well read men. They were more than buffoons. They had an understanding of life that made their jokes hit deeper than just the froth of things. Fifty years ago the country was all talking of the pantomime of the Ravens. To-day their name is unknown.

One of the most remarkable sights I ever witnessed in my traveling around the country was in Chicago after the big fire. The city was a black mass of smoldering ruins and we paraded down one street with nothing but debris on either side. But there were lots of people out to see us and we did a big business. I remember distinctly that there was real laughter from the crowds I played to.

## Vigilante Bands Twice Cleaned Up San Francisco When Police Failed

EARLY in June, 1851, handbills by the thousand appeared in the streets of San Francisco. The arresting phrases printed on these mysterious summonses of public opinion were:

"Citizens of San Francisco! The series of murders and robberies that have been common to this city within the last redress from the laws seem to leave us entirely in a state of anarchy. The law, it appears, is but a nonentity, to be scoffed at. Are we to be robbed and assassinated in our domiciles and the law to let our aggressors perambulate the streets merely because they have furnished straw bait? If so, let each man be his own executioner!"

Out of the public meeting which immediately formed in response to this amazing call and out of the resolute and lethal deeds performed by the calmly chosen agents of the hitherto helpless people of San Francisco resulted within four months such law and order as no section of California had known since the great gold rush began in 1849; tranquility which was to last a few years only until a second and more determined manifestation of the vigilante spirit, in 1855 this time, practically ended the domination of the city by organized criminals.

The vigilante committees of San Francisco were the most interesting and the most significant of the several popular uprisings against un-checked crime. In that community, on the edge of America, had gathered soon after Marshall found gold at the Coloma sawmill in January, 1849, the most extraordinary, the most hetero-

genous collection of human beings that this country had ever seen—pill-grims by sea and land, honest men and knaves, the pious and the blasphemous, the ignorant and the learned, the brutish and the refined; doctors, lawyers, preachers, horse jockeys, bakers and bankers—all in search of gold.

The factors that encouraged crime among the indolent and the vicious were the plentifulness of gold, the lonely and exposed condition of the roads and trails, the quantity of treasure constantly transported over them and the utter inadequacy of the courts and the police. San Francisco by 1849 had become, literally, a den of thieves that worked hand and hand with the sheriff's officers and the police, and who, not infrequently, wore a constable's badge.

These gangs, robbing, burning, murdering, insulting women, worked openly by day as well as by night, cowering decent folk by their truculency, their display of weapons and their threats. First to attract wide notice was the criminal organization called "The Hounds," whose headquarters was a "tomb" called "Tammany Hall."

Soon afterward another thieves' organization, "The Regulators," came into being, with similar purposes and motives. By July, 1849, San Francisco was aroused, for there had been in the California communities, according to loose estimate, no less than 4,200 murders. No one attempted to estimate the number of robberies, thefts and hold-ups. They were past counting.

The public movement was abortive and crime raged until the historic month of June, 1851.

Then the handbills, previously mentioned, appeared in the streets, and a public meeting of 10,000 persons recommended that a vigilance committee be chosen and given full power, courts, government and police to be ignored until the work in hand was done. On June 9, 1851, the constitution of the committee of Vigilants was promulgated. It provided for a general committee and an executive committee to restore public order. Its seal and symbol was an all seeing eye.

Quietly and with cold determination the Vigilantes went to work. Their first stroke was the seizing, trial and hanging of a former Australian convict named John Jenkins, and thereafter they struck right and left until they had utterly smashed the notorious "Hounds" and had made the streets safe and properly respected.

It became necessary in May, 1856, for the old Vigilantes of '51 to sound again the call for an uprising of the people, and again the redoubtable Ryckman and his old comrades of '51 displayed their forceful powers. The Committee of Vigilants was not only reorganized but it was renewed upon a much broader scale. It was organized upon military lines and drilled and trained men under captains were the striking arm of the "illegal administration of justice."

It was just what they needed—a bit of brightness and sunshine in that awful mass of ruin.

One of the most exciting experiences in my career was in 1862 when I was captured by a guerrilla band in Virginia. I was playing in the John Robinson Circus at the time and I was King Solomon in the spectacle "Solomon and His Temple." We were near Richmond. After the show I went for a walk and hadn't been gone from the tent ten minutes when I was surrounded by the band and taken to the leader. It was not difficult for me to explain who I was, but I suspect the leader, who was not without a bit of humor even in those trying times, pretended he did not believe me. It was up to me to show that I was a clown and I did, without any makeup. I sang to them in their camp and gave them a little show all by myself. Later I was escorted out of the woods and put on the road to the tent. We left there the next day.

I have had many strange experiences, but I think the hardest of all was when I was told to take the place of a rider who had been taken ill. That's one thing I cannot do. I love horses and all animals, but as a rider I never was a success. I got rigged up in the proper costume, however, and rode out into the ring. It was a trick horse and I was getting along pretty well until it stopped suddenly and knelt. I went clean over its head

but I landed neatly on my feet, for I was a gymnast then. The crowd applauded, thinking it was part of the act. I bowed, and as the horse arose I did a handspring, intending to land on the horse's back. Instead I landed on the tanbark, and then my clown instincts saved me, and I closed the act with a bit of buffoonery which astonished the horse so much that he stood still, and thus helped me to put over one of the worst fakes ever perpetrated. But the crowd liked it.

Sometimes we found it mighty hard traveling in the old days. We didn't have the comforts we get now. But after all what does it matter what changes come to the circus in the years as they pass? I wouldn't be anything else but a clown for all the world could offer me. I remember when I was a boy and I ran away to go to the circus it was like that. I wanted to be a clown, although my father had planned to make a minister of me. My right name is Frisbie. Miaco was wished on me sixty years ago and I have kept it ever since. I am old now and the younger men must take my place, but I still want to be a clown. It's the gaiety of life that counts. And the art of making people laugh after they have applauded—how few of us know that nowadays!

I'm only 77 years old. I have played since I was 9, and I'm going to keep on playing until—the curtains.

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Sales Days: April 12, 13, 14, 15  
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EXHIBITION—Monday, April 10, and daily until time of sale.

**PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT!**  
Great Sale of  
**Authentic Spanish Antiques**  
We have just been notified of the arrival per S.S. "La France" of the famous  
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**Continuation of a Stupendous Auction Sale**  
**\$200,000 WORTH OF ART TREASURES AND EXQUISITE HOME FURNISHINGS**  
**BENJ. S. WISE, Auctioneer**  
Has received imperative instructions to sell at Public Auction absolutely to the highest bidder without limit or reserve  
By order of **WILLIAM BIRNS, Inc.** (Interior Decorator and Furnisher)  
The collection of Art Treasures and Magnificent Furnishings imported from Palaces, Chateaux and Private Residences representing the facilities of tastes of European and American Aristocracy.  
THIS IMPORTANT SALE WILL TAKE PLACE  
TO-MORROW (MON.) and Following Days at 2 P. M. Each Day at the LEAVITT Building, 126 to 132 West 46th St.  
NOTE: Collection of Needlepoint Chairs and Sofas, Aubusson Suites, and other pieces of Carpets and Tapestry Hangings in this week's sale. Descriptive Catalogue now ready, 25¢ each, obtainable on premises or at Auctioneer's Office, 425 Columbus Avenue, at 81st Street.

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By order of  
**Jacob Meurer, Esq.**  
I have been instructed to sell at auction on  
Wednesday, April 12, 1922  
at his residence (roomy suite)  
**266 Lincoln Place**  
Corner Plaza and opposite Montauk Club  
The residue of the expensive cabinet made by the late Mr. Meurer, including other fine appointments, collections of paintings, including choice examples by T. B. Craig, H. R. Woodland, H. Mosler, H. P. S. B. I. Couse and others. Elliot Chiming Hall Clock, Widdowson Talking Machine in special case, Pilot and Cluny lace hangings, velvet portieres, carpets, rugs, etc., etc. On view Tuesday, April 11, 10 to 12 o'clock, apply to the office of the Auctioneer.  
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with additions from other sources, including Furniture for every part of the household.  
European Porcelains, Glassware, Silver-Plated Ware, Curtains, Descriptive Oil Paintings, Pedvies Oriental Rugs and Carpets.  
To be sold Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 13, 14 and 15, from 10 o'clock each day.

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TO SATISFY A LIEN  
**One Solitaire Ring**  
with brilliant weighing about 25 and 65-100 Carats.  
Descriptive Oil Paintings, Pedvies Oriental Rugs and Carpets.  
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Monday, Tuesday April 10 & 11  
11 a.m. each day  
Set. 30th and 31st Sts.  
Complete Furnishings for the Living Room, Library, Bedroom, Dining Room and Parlor; Wicker Furniture, Vitrines, Pedestals, Lamps, Cabinets, Bronzes, Curious, Tapestries, Brics-a-Brac, Cut Glass, Pictures, Curtains, Draperies, Etc.  
Old Chairs, Bureaus, Tables, Beds and Mattresses, Dressers, Chiffoniers, Office Furniture, Etc.  
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